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## The *Guajira* between Cuba and Spain: A Study in Continuity and Change

The study of the movements and transformations of musical forms across time, space, and social contexts, although long a basic consideration of music history, has acquired fresh significance and analytical thrust in recent decades. Both the interest in such studies and their theoretical orientations have been enhanced by the emergence of globalization studies and the fresh appreciation of the ways that musical forms can be rearticulated and resignified as they move between different places, periods, and social strata. In this article I attempt to schematize some of the formal continuities and changes involved in a particularly complex set of interrelated genres, which can be seen to constitute various efflorescences, or adaptations, of Cuban *campesino* music, or what could be called the *guajira* complex of musical forms.

In the intricate world of circular musical exchanges between Old and New Worlds, those between Cuba and Spain have particular historical depth and richness. Among these interactions, especially outstanding in their fertility and abundance are the musics in one way or another inspired by *música guajira*, or music of *guajiros*, a Cuban term for small farmers of predominantly Hispanic descent. At the generative core of this complex of genres lies the *punto cubano*, which, in its most characteristic and relevant forms, comprises certain distinctive ways of singing verses, predominantly in the ten-line *décima* form, with standardized melodic and accompanimental patterns. These patterns appear to have coalesced from Spanish-derived elements by the nineteenth century and have since continued to flourish in their particular milieus. In the latter 1800s the *punto* inspired a Spanish popular-song genre called *guajira*, which flourished, in different forms, in *zarzuela* theater and in commercial flamenco contexts, constituting a major *cante de ida y vuelta*, or song-form of the “departure and return,” that is,

between Spain and the New World. Around the turn of the century, a parallel although distinct urban song-form, also called *guajira*, emerged in Cuban music theater. In the 1930s, as this early theatrical *guajira* declined in popularity, a thoroughly distinct and more durable form of *guajira* emerged in Cuba, with other striking parallels in Spain.

Taken retrospectively, this set of genres, together with their historical forerunners in Spain, constitutes a musical family of considerable variety and complexity. Fortunately for analytical purposes, the *guajira* complex has not been neglected by scholars. The collaborative two-volume work *La música entre Cuba y España* (1998, 1999) by Cuban scholars María Teresa Linares and Victoria Eli, with Faustino Nuñez and María de los Ángeles Alfonso Rodríguez, constitutes one important study, which covers certain aspects of the *guajira* complex. The evolution of the Cuban *punto* is further explored in Linares's *El punto cubano* (1999) and Natalio Galán's little-known but remarkable *Cuba y sus sonos* (1983). For their part, peninsular scholars Romualdo Molina and Miguel Espín have documented with great erudition the development of the *guajira* as a flamenco *cante*, or song-type (1991). Meanwhile, the various Spanish and Cuban contributors to Maximiano Trapero's edited volumes on the *décima* (1994, 2001) shed much light on the evolution of the *punto* and, in particular, its relation to Canary Island forms. Although the present author cannot pretend to improve upon such writings, much may nevertheless remain to be said on the subject of the *guajira* family. Some of these works (especially those of Linares, León, and Trapero) are collectors' items, and almost all are marked by a paucity of musical analyses and transcriptions. More formidable a challenge is the way that the *guajira* complex constitutes a musical entity of unwieldy dimensions and complications, and yet one whose internal interrelationships do invite some sort of organizational scheme. It is such an over-arching perspective, with an emphasis on formal continuities and discontinuities, that this essay hopes to present. In the process I endeavor to suggest some broader perspectives on the dynamics of musical continuity and change.

### The *Punto Cubano*

The *punto cubano*, in its regional variants (and poorly documented historical ones) can be regarded as the primary inspirational core of the set of genres here presented as the *guajira* complex.<sup>1</sup> These genres can all be seen to rearticulate, with various transformations and external influences, aspects of the individual distinctive formal features of the *punto*. Although the term "punto" originally referred to guitar technique, in nineteenth-century Cuba, as suggested above, it came to denote the family of styles of rendering

pre-composed or improvised verses, accompanied primarily by stringed instruments such as guitar, *laúd*, and the mandolin-like *bandurria*. The Hispanic origins of the *punto* are overt in the use of these instruments, in the genre's association primarily with white or mulatto *guajiros*, and in the predominance of the ten-line *décima* verse form. This form, in its *espinela* variant, consists of octosyllabic lines in the rhyme scheme *abbaaccddc*. Although visually resembling a mirrored structure, it is better regarded as an initial *abba* quatrain (a *redondilla*), constituting a complete grammatical and conceptual statement, which is then elaborated in the subsequent six lines; a musical pause or interlude after the sixth line can lend the final four lines (*cddc*) the character of a concluding *redondilla*. The *décima* itself, although extant throughout much of Latin America, has been cultivated with particular enthusiasm in Cuba (and Puerto Rico), both as a literary genre and as a vernacular idiom, whose popularity owes much to its role in folk music.

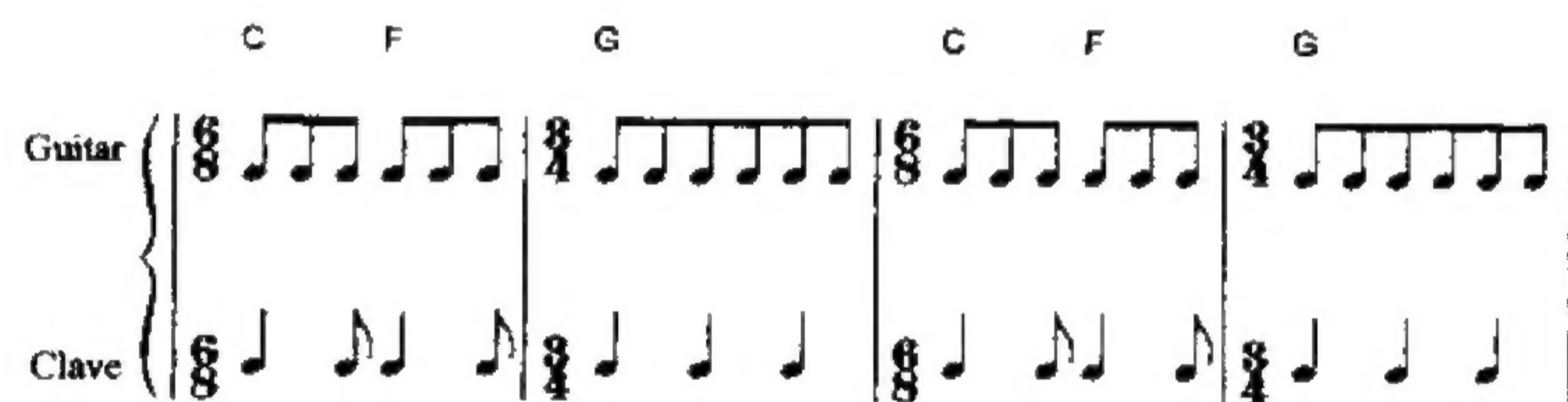
The *punto* has flourished primarily in the western half of Cuba, with its more distinctive and to some extent polarized Hispanic- and African-derived cultural traditions, rather than in the culturally and racially more Creole eastern sector. As the predominant genre of *música guajira*, the *punto* has flowered in several regional and idiosyncratic personal variants, distinguished by tune, typical accompaniment patterns, and such features as the use of a non-*décima* *estribillo*, or refrain (e.g., in the *punto* of Sancti Spiritus). A more general distinction exists between the metered *punto fijo* ("fixed") styles, and the *punto libre* ("free") styles, whose *décimas* are sung in free time, with punctuating metered instrumental ritornellos in alternating bars of 6/8 and 3/4. The latter style (especially the *punto libre pinareño*), with a single fairly standardized chordal and, to some extent, melodic pattern, predominates in western Cuba and the Havana area and has for some time constituted something of a pan-regional norm (extending even to the Canary Islands, where it has been cultivated by returning immigrants).

The most common *punto libre* setting is fairly standardized. Essentially, it can be seen as having two bipartite melodic lines, labeled in example 1 as A (A1 and A2) and B (B1 and B2). The first two lines of the *décima* are sung to A, and are often repeated once; lines 3–4 are then sung to B, leading to an instrumental ritornello (during which the poet, if improvising, may create the rest of the *décima* in his mind). Lines 5–6 are then sung to A; and after another ritornello, lines 7–10 are sung to melodies A and B. Instrumental ritornellos precede and follow the *décima*.

verse line:	1	2	1	2	3	4	(rit.)	5	6	(rit.)	7	8	9	10	(rit.)
rhyme:	a	b	a	b	b	a		a	c		c	d	d	c	
melody:	A1	A2	A1	A2	B1	B2		A1	A2		A1	A2	B1	B2	
			A		A	B			A			A		B	

Example 1. Typical *punto libre* melody

During the ritornellos, which are of indeterminate length, the guitarist typically strums a do-fa-sol (e.g., C-F-G) chordal ostinato (as shown in example 2) while the *bandurria* player performs single-note, often flashy improvisations. A horizontal hemiola (or *sesquiáltera*) pattern is evident in the ostinato typically played on the *clave* sticks, suggesting alternating bars of 6/8 and 3/4, which could thus be counted 1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-1-2-1-2.

Example 2. *Punto libre* ritornello pattern

Particularly significant for comparative purposes are the various features that are more or less common to the main *punto* substyles. These include the following:

1. A primarily syllabic rather than melismatic vocal style (as in the traditional Spanish *romance*);
2. The tendency to divide the *décima* in the manner mentioned above, with a pause or interlude after the fourth line;
3. Either implicit or explicit *sesquiáltera*, i.e., horizontal hemiola with alternating bars of 6/8 and 3/4 (in the metered sections);
4. A generally descending melodic contour, from sol to sol an octave lower, with a marked descent on the final syllable;
5. Mixolydian modality and modal harmony, in which both melody and chordal ostinatos cadence on sol (here, G); the harmonic cadences are typically described by musicologists as "on the dominant," but (as I have argued elsewhere) are better seen as reflecting a dual tonicity in which do and sol chords (here, C and G) oscillate with relatively equal weight<sup>2</sup> (see Manuel 2002).

The *sesquiáltera* and syllabic rendering are also evident in example 3, an excerpt of a *punto fijo* from Sancti Spiritus<sup>3</sup>:

Example 3. *Punto fijo* excerpt

Texts of Cuban *décimas* are extremely diverse in subject matter, especially since the *décima* has flourished both as a sophisticated literary genre and as a vernacular popular idiom, with works of poets like Francisco Pineda (1796–1881) and Juan Cristóbal Nápoles Fajardo ("El Cucalambé," 1829–62) enjoying wide renown. Typical topics may include nationalism, rural life, philosophy, love, and in the less common *seguidilla* form, extended narrative. In general, as Cuban musicologists have often observed (e.g., Díaz Ayala 1981, 77; Carpentier [1946] 2001, 266), the richness of the *punto* is to be sought more in its poetry than in its melodies. The latter consist of a relatively limited set of stock tunes, which, like those of the traditional *romance*, are reiterated over the decades with little innovation or elaboration.

Sources of the *Punto Cubano*

Many aspects of the *punto*'s evolution are impossible to reconstruct, although Galán, Linares, and Iberian musicologists have plausibly documented the trajectories of several of the genre's distinguishing features. Perhaps easiest of these to trace is the origin and spread of the *décima* itself. After being fashioned and popularized by Spanish poet and musician Vicente Espinel (1544–1644), the eponymous *espinela* form of *décima* came to flourish among both peninsular literati and laymen. The *décima*'s prominence in theatrical works by "Golden Age" playwrights like Lope de Vega (1562–1635) and Pedro Calderón de la Barca (1600–81) helped bridge the gap between the two social strata, and also popularized the tradition of setting it to music. In the eighteenth century, the *décima* took root throughout much of Latin America, and especially in Cuba and Puerto Rico. In the following century, paradoxically, its popularity in Spain (including the Canaries) came to be eclipsed by the vogue of other literary and musical genres, especially (in the case of southern Spain and the Canaries) *fandangos*, *malagueñas*, and *folías*, which did not, however, exert great influence in the Americas. However, the *décima* retained enough vitality in the Canary island of La Palma such that emigrants from there to western and central Cuba appear to have intensified its cultivation in those regions. Ongoing

ties with La Palma led to the transplanting of the *punto cubano* there, where it survives, in diminished form, alongside other more distinctively local *décima*-singing traditions (see, e.g., Trapero 1994).

While the origins of the *punto cubano*'s distinctive melodies, or *tonadas*, have not been documented, other features have been plausibly traced, in ways that may contribute to an appreciation of their historical trajectories beyond the realm of the *punto* itself. Moorish roots have been postulated for the practice of alternating solo vocal verses and instrumental interludes (especially played on the *úd*, ancestor of the *laúd*) (Siemens Hernández 1994). Other features, especially the Mixolydian modality, and the frequent monophonic unison doubling of the voice on an accompanying stringed instrument, can be seen as archaisms from the Renaissance or even earlier. Particularly curious are the circuitous paths of features that may have derived originally from the Afro-Latin Americas—perhaps Mexico/New Spain, whether reaching Cuba directly thence, or via Spain itself. Linares (1999, 26–32) points out the similarity between the chordal ostinatos of the *punto* ritornello and those of the eighteenth-century peninsular salon *fandango*, whose ultimate origins in Afro-Latin music seem likely. One might further note the parallels between the *punto libre* and the flamenco-style *fandango libre*, with its strophes in free meter punctuated by instrumental ostinatos often in ternary meter.

For its part, the 6/8–3/4 *sesquiáltera*/hemiola figure, which is particularly abundant in Latin American genres like the *punto*, surfaces in various peninsular sources dating as far back as the mid-sixteenth century. During that period it came to constitute a cliché in Spanish song, recurring in many *romances*, *villancicos*, and Spanish-Italian *frottolas* (Binkley and Frenk 1995, 14). Melodies with rhythms nearly identical to that of the *punto fijo* presented in example 3 can also be found in this era.<sup>4</sup> The *sesquiáltera* figure also constituted a basic feature of the *zarabanda* (sarabande), which appears to have emerged in the late 1500s in Mexico, possibly of Afro-Latin origin. Scholars seem to disagree as to whether the *sesquiáltera* first emerged in Spain or in the Americas.<sup>5</sup> Whatever its origin, the pattern went on to exhibit great popularity and fecundity in Latin America, while becoming less prominent a feature of peninsular music after the seventeenth century.

In the latter 1700s a tune known as “punto de La Habana” or “punto habanero” (Havana-style *punto*) came to be popular in Spain, documenting that a *punto cubano* style had already coalesced and had even returned to the metropole. Spanish composer Xavier Montsalvage (Galán 1983, 29) presented the melody, although of uncertain historicity, as shown in example 4:<sup>6</sup>

Example 4. “Punto de La Habana”



While the vogue of the Cuban *contradanza habanera* in mid-nineteenth-century Spain is well documented, as Galán observes, the documentation of the “punto habanero” in Spain predates that form of musical *vuelta* (or return) by a century, constituting the first known presence of Cuban music in the peninsula. Let us turn to the course and dynamics of this return.

### The *Vuelta*, Part I: The *Guajira* in Spain

From the 1850s, stylized, elaborated forms of gypsy and Andalusian traditional song forms began to be widely performed in commercial contexts—especially the *cafés cantantes*—in Andalusian towns, primarily by gypsy professional musicians. This diverse category of songs, loosely united by performance styles and contexts, soon came to be called *cante flamenco* or simply flamenco. As flamenco spread and evolved in these contexts, the need for new material led singers to incorporate a wide variety of non-gypsy genres into the repertoire. Among these was the *guajira*, which, together with the flamenco-style *tango*, *milonga*, *petenera*, and others, constituted the aforementioned category of *cantes de ida y vuelta*—*cantes* of departure and return, that is, between Spain and Latin America.

While some 1860 references to Andalusian versions of *guajira* remain enigmatic,<sup>7</sup> it is clear that by the 1880s the *guajira* had become an important, popular, and well-defined flamenco *cante*, or song-type. From the cylinder recordings of the 1890s through subsequent decades, it came to be fairly well documented as a *cante* whose features persist through the present. From the 1930s, Pepe Marchena, Juanito Valderrama, and other singers of *cante bonito* (“pretty flamenco”) popularized a sort of rococo version of the *guajira*, abounding in florid, delicate melismas crooned in a somewhat effeminate, rubato style. By the 1970s this style had definitively passed out of vogue and is currently regarded by most flamenco audiences as manneristic and insipid; the *guajira* itself is also seldom performed since that period.

The emergence of the flamenco *guajira* coincided with a period of intensified contact between Andalusia and Cuba, not only through the general increase in maritime traffic and trade, but especially in the form of the hundreds of thousands of peninsular soldiers who returned from duty in the insurrectionary island. After the independence of Cuba from Spain in 1898, personal, economic, and cultural exchanges between the two countries persisted, with the port of Cádiz retaining some of its historical status as a sort of sister city to Havana.

It is commonplace in flamenco discourse and literature to regard the *guajira* as derivative of the Cuban *punto*. Although, as we note below, its evolution may be somewhat more complex, the parallel and presumably derivative features of the *guajira* are evident, as summarized here:

**Example 5: *Guajira*, by Manuel Escacena**

Ay a mi me gusta por la mañana  
de' pué de el ca- fe be- bi- do pa - se - ar por la sa -  
va - na con mi ta - ba - co cu - can - di - do  
lue - go me sien - to en mi si - lla y  
en mi si - lla o si - lle - - - tón  
y  
así como pe - po - lón de'e - sos  
que lla - man dí - a - rios y pa - rez - co un mí - llo - ra - rio de'e - sos de le  
po - bla - ción

—lyrics which frequently depict Cuba and *campesino* life (albeit generally in an idealized form).

—The *guajira* is “flamenco-ized” or *aflamencada* by means of florid vocal melismas and a rich, elaborated guitar style; hence, as the latter developed its own characteristic norms, *guajiras* also became a solo guitar sub-style.

Example 6 shows the standard guitar ostinato for the flamenco *guajira*.

Example 6. *Guajira* guitar ostinato

The first system of musical notation for 'The Girl on the Train' is written on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature (C). The music is in 4/4 time. The first measure is a whole note chord of E7. The second measure is a whole note chord of A. The third measure is a whole note chord of E7. The fourth measure is a whole note chord of A. The fifth measure is a whole note chord of E7. The sixth measure is a whole note chord of A. The seventh measure is a whole note chord of E7. The eighth measure is a whole note chord of A. The ninth measure is a whole note chord of E7. The tenth measure is a whole note chord of A. The eleventh measure is a whole note chord of E7. The twelfth measure is a whole note chord of A. The thirteenth measure is a whole note chord of E7. The fourteenth measure is a whole note chord of A. The fifteenth measure is a whole note chord of E7. The sixteenth measure is a whole note chord of A. The system ends with a double bar line.

The differences between the flamenco *guajira* and the Cuban *punto* can be seen to correspond to their somewhat distinct origins. On the one hand, there should be little doubt that the *guajira's* vogue in Spain around the turn of the century owed much to the intensified travels of Spaniards to and from Cuba, including the tours and residences of flamenco singers such as El Mochuelo (Antonio Pozo, 1868–1937) and Pepe de la Matrona (1887–1980) in Cuba. However, by that time the flamenco *guajira* had already acquired a distinctive form; hence, for example, even the *guajira* recorded in 1906 by El Mochuelo in Cuba is in the distinctively Spanish *guajira* style rather than in Cuban *punto* form.<sup>10</sup> These distinctive features of the flamenco *guajira*, rather than deriving from the contemporary

## Example 7. "Guajiras Gitanas"

Ma - dre yo com - pre'un ca ri - ño ca la fe - ria del a -

mor que bo - ni - to'e - ra'el ju - gue - te y que ca -

ro me oos - tú - vi - da mi - a

Cuban *punto*, can be found in and presumably derive from earlier peninsular music. One likely source, cited by Spanish musicologists (e.g., Molina and Espín 1991, 42–43), would comprise certain songs associated with light *tonadilla* theater. While as mentioned above, the hemiola figure became less common in Iberian music after the era of the *zarabanda*, it does appear in a few vernacular theater songs, notably the “pañó moruno” melody and rhythmically similar *zarandillo* songs from *tonadillas*, such as the “Tirana del Zarandillo,” excerpted as example 8 (from Pedrell 1958, 102–07):<sup>11</sup>

## Example 8. “Tirana del Zarandillo”

Za - ran - di - llo an - di - llo'y an di - llo Za - ran di - llo - y'an

di - llo'y an - dar - Za - ran - di - llo an di - llo y'an - dar

While musicologists regard such songs as peninsular precursors to the flamenco *guajira*, it is important to remember that, as mentioned above, the *punto* itself, in some form, had already established a presence in Spain from the 1700s. Alongside the aforementioned “punto de La Habana” of this period, inexpensive chapbooks (*pliegos de cordel*) sold in Andalusia in the early 1800s contained “Décimas nuevas para cantar los aficionados por el punto de La Habana” (New *décimas* for amateurs to sing to the [tune of] the *punto* of Havana) (Blas Vega 1982, 77). As such, some of the flamenco *guajira*’s distinctive features may well derive from archaic elements of the *punto*, which had long been domesticated in Andalusia.<sup>12</sup> At the same time, it is also quite possible that the hemiola rhythm was seen as deriving more immediately from and evocative of the Americas, particularly Cuba. In that sense it may have functioned to some extent as a sort of iconic Latin Americanism (much, perhaps, like its role as a cliché of Latinoness in *West Side Story*’s “I like to live in Ame-ri-ca”).<sup>13</sup>

Whether as a caricature of Cuban music or an elaboration of well-established peninsular genres, the flamenco *guajira* developed as a thoroughly Iberian entity. Accordingly, as noted above, the tunes it employs, from its earliest recordings, bear no particular resemblance to known Cuban *punto* melodies. Indeed, the process of indigenizing Caribbean musics—with its attendant elements of musical elaboration and refinement—was commented on as early as 1831, when Estébanez Calderón wrote, “It’s pointless to say that new songs and dances, however originally delightful and lascivious, arrive at Cádiz from the Indies; [for] they never take root unless, in passing through Seville, they leave as a foul sediment what is too clumsy” ([1831]1984, 15).<sup>14</sup>

Molina and Espín (1991, chap. 2) stress that the “imported” *guajira*, as part of the flamenco repertoire, is in fact older than more quintessentially flamenco *cantes* like *soleares* and *bulerías*. Similarly, it is worth pointing out that while the Cuban *punto* may date in some form from the eighteenth century, the Spanish *guajira*’s appearance as an urban commercial song-form predates by several decades the emergence of any urban Cuban popular song-form by that name.<sup>15</sup>

The lyric content of the Spanish *guajira* also illustrates the senses in which it is at once imported and indigenized. The absence of references to Cuba in many songs reflects the extent to which the *guajira*, like the “*Punto cubano*” in Manuel de Falla’s *Piezas españolas*, could be regarded as simply a local idiom whose foreign origins were irrelevant. Somewhat in the manner of a free-floating signifier, the *guajira* could even be identified not with Cubans, but, as we have seen, with its local performers, the gypsies, as in the aforementioned “Guajiras gitanas” (“Gypsy *guajiras*”). For their part, peninsular *guajira* texts illustrate some of the ambivalences of Spaniards toward the island. Some texts sympathetically portray the Spanish colonial

soldier fighting the Cuban insurgents,<sup>16</sup> or pining to be back in Spain. Yet although Cuba, for many soldiers, was a site of jungle, disease, and death, the *guajira* most typically portrayed Cuba as a land of sexy mulatto women and bucolic rural life, especially in accordance with the nostalgia with which many Spaniards regarded Cuba after 1898. Although having little in common with the more realistic Cuban *punto* itself, to a considerable extent these images parallel idealized portrayals by urban white Cubans of their own country, as we shall note below.

The *décima* of example 5 is typical in this sense, and also in its departure from the *espinela* form; this was one of the two most popular and recurrent *décimas* sung in Spanish *guajiras*:

A mí me gusta por la mañana  
después del café bebido  
pasear me por la sabana

con mi tabaco encendido.  
Luego me siento en mi silla  
y en my silla o silletón  
y saco en papelón  
de esos que llaman diarios  
y parezco un millonario

de esos de la población.

I like in the mornings,  
after my cup of coffee,  
to stroll through the savannah,  
[alt: Havana]  
smoking my cigar,  
and then I recline in my chair,  
and in my big chair  
I buy one of those big pieces of paper  
they call the daily newspaper  
so that I look like one of those  
millionaires  
about town.

In similar vein is the other most popular *décima*:

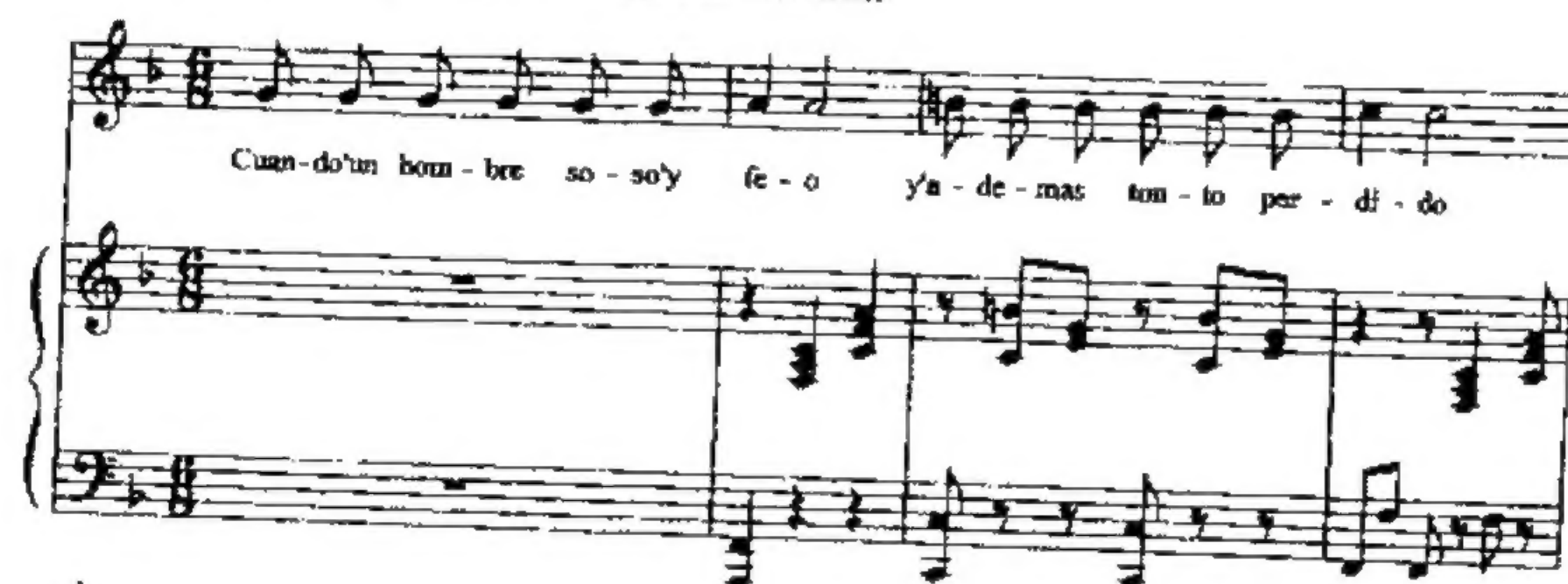
Contigo me caso indiana  
si se muere tu papá  
díseselo (sic) a tu mamá  
hermosísima cubana.  
Tengo una casa en La Habana  
destinada para tí  
y con un techo de marfil  
y el piso de plata forma  
para tí bella paloma  
tengo yo la flor de lí

I marry you, woman of the Indies,  
and if your father dies,  
tell your mother,  
most beautiful Cuban,  
I've got a house in Havana,  
destined for you,  
with an ivory roof  
and a silver floor,  
for you, pretty dove,  
and a fleur-de-lis.<sup>17</sup>

Both these *décimas* were recorded many times, becoming familiar stock texts in a manner atypical of the more varied Cuban *décimas*. The reiteration of these same few *décimas* reflected the absence of a strong tradition of vernacular or literary *décima* composition in contemporary Spain, unlike Cuba. The idealization of Cuban rural life becomes even more eccentric in *guajiras* such as that rendered, with the most florid and refined melismas, by La Niña de la Puebla around 1932, in which she sings of being a (male) plantation owner with a hundred black workers and a Mexican (!) slave.<sup>18</sup>

A parallel and closely related form of Spanish *guajira* flourished in the turn-of-the-century decades in Spanish music theater (*zarzuela* and *sainete*, which replaced the humbler *tonadilla*). As mentioned, the early flamenco *guajira* appears to have had roots in *tonadilla* songs, and stylistic affinities between the theatrical and flamenco namesakes subsequently persisted. Both shared as their most distinctive feature the *sesquialtera* ostinato. In theater *guajiras*, as in early flamenco counterparts, the hemiola persists both in accompaniment patterns, and also in melodies, in the figure seen in example 7 above (six eighth-notes followed by a 3/4 pattern), and in the following excerpt, shown as example 9, of the well-known *guajira* from Ruberto Chapí's *zarzuela* "La Revoltosa" (1897).

Example 9. Guajira from "La Revoltosa"



Like flamenco counterparts, but in accordance with the argument of the particular *zarzuela*, some Spanish theater *guajiras* were used to portray Cuba (such as Valverde's "La Mulata"), while others functioned simply as abstract song-types. The *guajira* of "La Revoltosa" would fall in the latter category, with its text neither in *décima* form nor related to Cuba, its initial bVI-V harmonies more reminiscent of Andalusia than the Americas, and its prevailing character of a light art-song. Other theater *guajiras*, however, bear close similarities to the flamenco *guajira*. In general, it may be said that the Spanish theater *guajira* resembles its flamenco counterpart more than it does the Cuban *punto*. However, around the turn of the century, a Cuban theatrical form of *guajira* emerged with striking similarities to its peninsular namesake.

### The Urban Cuban *Guajira*

In Havana in 1899, theater-music composer Jorge Anckermann (1877-1941), challenged to produce suitable music for a drama set in the Cuban countryside, composed a song that inaugurated a new form of "*guajira*."

The song, "El arroyo que murmura" (The stream that murmurs), not only became a familiar evergreen in the Cuban popular song repertoire, but further served as the model for many (mostly less-inspired) *guajiras* to follow, by other composers of Cuban *zarzuela* and *teatro bufo* music. These included Moisés Simons, Gonzalo Roig, Eduardo Sánchez de Fuentes, Ernesto Lecuona, and Anckermann himself.

Like the Spanish *guajira*, the Cuban salon and theater *guajira* presented a naively exoticized and romanticized image of the Cuban countryside. *Décimas* composed and sung by actual *campesinos* abounded in realistic portrayals of poverty, landlessness, exploitation by Yankee landlords, and other decidedly non-idyllic aspects of rural life (see Ibarra 1985, chap. 5). However, the urban *guajira* largely avoided such topics, or if portraying poverty, depicted it as somehow quaint. Hence the popularization of familiar "June/moon" rhyme clichés, like "monte/sinsonte" (mountain/mocking-bird), "bohío/río" (hut/river), and "montaña/caña" (mountain/cane).

The Cuban theater *guajira*, in its stylization of aspects of rural music, can be seen as the product of a natural desire of urban composers to exploit and develop aspects of rural music, inspired both by nationalist and strictly musical considerations. As Argeliers León (1972, 98–100) has observed, it may also have been informed by the increased migration of white *campesinos* to the coastal cities in the latter 1800s. However, as León, Robin Moore (1997, 131–32), and others have insightfully discussed, such songs also had a less innocent dimension. At a time when an Afrocubanist artistic movement and lower-class Afro-Cuban music (especially the *son*) were coming to permeate urban culture, the social phenomenon of urban *guajirismo* could constitute for many Cubans an alternative form of national and cultural identity. As the nature of "Cubanness" was being contested and formed, even many urban blacks and mulattos found in *guajirismo*—including the stage *guajira*—a form of identity remote from the obstreperous rumba and *santería* music, which seemed to some like embarrassing relics of the slavery era.

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Cuban musicologists are clearly correct in describing Anckermann's creation as a free stylization of elements of the *punto* and *zapateo*. Particularly obvious is the similarity between Anckermann's *guajira* and Sancti Spiritus's *punto fijo* styles such as example 3. Galán (1983, 49) also perceptively notes the sense in which the nineteenth-century Cuban *contradanza*

Example 10. "El arroyo que murmura," by Jorge Anckermann

The musical score for "El arroyo que murmura" by Jorge Anckermann is presented in three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F minor). The melody is written in 6/8 time. Above the staff, the chords Fm and C7 are indicated. The lyrics "El a - rroyo que mur - mu - ra" are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody, with Fm and C7 chords indicated above. The lyrics "y que la lu - na re - tra - ta" are written below. The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (D major). The melody continues, with D and A7 chords indicated above. The lyrics "El sin - son - te de voz pu - ra que a - le - gra el mon - te y el ha - no" are written below.

*habanera*, with its binary form, constituted another sort of model for the theater *guajira* and other contemporary stage songs. At the same time, it is quite likely that Anckermann may have been influenced by the Spanish theatrical *guajira*. Both (together with the *punto spirituario*) shared a rigidly formulaic melodic rhythm (six eighth-notes in 6/8 followed by a contrasting bar in 3/4). Also striking is the way in which Chapí's aforementioned *guajira* of 1897, like Anckermann's model of two years later, commences in minor and modulates to the direct major.

It is highly probable that Anckermann was familiar with the peninsular *guajira*. *Zarzuela* troupes constantly went back and forth between Cuba and Andalusia during this era, which also saw an intensified migration of Spaniards to Cuba (see León 1972, 99). Cuban nationalism notwithstanding, Spanish music remained popular in Cuba throughout this period, and as we have mentioned, many peninsular musicians visited or even resided in the island, including El Mochuelo, who recorded a flamenco-style *guajira* there in 1906. While we have mentioned the presence of such Spanish musicians as a possible conduit for transplanting Cuban music to the metropole, they would certainly have exerted an influence in the other direction, especially since they were performers of flamenco—including the flamenco *guajira*—, not Cuban music. In general, the relation between the Spanish and Cuban theater *guajiras* merits further investigation.

The Cuban theater *guajira*, aside from its formal similarities to its Spanish namesake, followed a somewhat similar trajectory. The *guajira* in Lecuona's *zarzuela* "El Cafetal" (1929), with its orchestral accompaniment and light-operatic vocal rendering, can be seen as a sort of Cuban counterpart to Chapí's *guajira* in "La Revoltosa."<sup>20</sup> Also like the peninsular *zarzuela guajira*, the Anckermann-style *guajira* declined dramatically in the 1940s, to some extent along with light Cuban music-theater in general.<sup>21</sup>

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That decline, however, by no means constituted the end of the "guajira" in Cuba. In the 1930s an entirely new *guajira* emerged, as popularized by performers like Guillermo Portabales, the Trio Matamoros, and Nico Saquito. The new *guajira de salón* resembled its predecessor in being an urban creation with no particular rural appeal, in its very occasional use of *décima* form, and in its lyrics presenting an idyllic, bucolic image of *guajiro* life. Although it could conceivably be performed by a horn-based ensemble,<sup>22</sup> more typically its accompaniment suggested a rural, Hispanic-derived flavor by foregrounding acoustic guitars, with light percussion. In other respects, however, the new *guajira* was quite distinct from its predecessor, being essentially a substyle of the Cuban *son*, in quadractic meter, with the characteristic syncopated rhythm of that genre.

The most typical and unpretentious *guajira* would reiterate a simple do-sol-fa (e.g., C-F-G) chordal ostinato (although it might end on the fa or G, in a way that should make us hesitate to call that chord the "dominant"). In this pattern is by far the most famous *guajira* of all, the song "Guajira Guantanamera" (Peasant woman of Guantánamo), composed around 1940 by Joseito Fernández. In his daily radio programs, Fernández would sing new verses (in *décima* form) to the stock tune of "Guantanamera," using the catchy title chorus as a punctuating refrain. The song was internationally popularized with verses by José Martí. Other *guajiras* might have more varied chordal progressions, again reflecting their origins among urban professional composers. Traditional features, such as the use of *décima* and final cadences on the "dominant," became exceptions rather than the norm. In general, the new *guajira* bore so scanty a resemblance to that of Anckermann that it can only be regarded as a successor, rather than a descendant, of that genre. Since the mid-century decades, the 6/8 Anckermann-style *guajira* has been largely forgotten in Cuba, and in popular Cuban musical discourse the term "guajira" invariably denotes the subsequent style, which, as musicologists note, should more properly be called "guajira-son." In general, the rise of the *guajira-son* reflects the predominance of the *son* in Cuban popular music and, as I shall suggest further, a broader process in which ternary-metered folk-derived forms give way to quadractic-metered popular and Afro-Caribbean-derived ones. This binarization process is particularly evident in the way that the eighteenth-century *punto* melody shown in example 4 above resurfaces—in 4/4—in *nueva trova* singer Pablo Milanés's song "Canción," whose opening line is presented here as example 11.<sup>23</sup>

Example 11. "Canción," by Pablo Milanés



## The *Vuelta*, Part II; Postlude to the Flamenco *Guajira*

As we have mentioned, the popularity of the flamenco *guajira* subsided in the mid-century decades, and the *zarzuela* counterpart declined even earlier. In the latter part of its heyday, however, the flamenco *guajira* contributed at least indirectly to the emergence of a new *cante bonito* flamenco *cante*, called "colombiana" (or "colombianas"<sup>24</sup>). The most distinctive feature of the *colombiana* is the guitar ostinato, in 4/4, with a strong 3-3-2 syncopation, alternating bars of dominant and tonic (typically, in E7-A fingerings). In flamenco discourse, it is common to read or hear that this genre, as its name suggests, is a stylization of music from Colombia. In fact, as has been well documented, the *colombiana* was invented by *cante-bonito* singer Pepe Marchena in 1931 (with the guitar accompaniment conventions created by Ramón Montoya). Why Marchena chose that name, and what his sources of melodic inspiration were, remain unclear (see, e.g., Molina and Espín 1991, chap. 6), but there is no evidence linking the *cante* in any way to Colombia. Nevertheless, the customary categorization of *colombianas* as a *cante de ida y vuelta* is not entirely without justification, for the syncopated guitar rhythm and tonic-dominant ostinati do suggest links to the Americas, although to Cuba rather than Colombia. Hence, *colombianas* are often paired with the *guajira*, and are sometimes spoken of as having the *aire* or feel of the *guajira*, although in duple rather than ternary meter. While it would be inaccurate to regard the *colombiana* as a simple derivative of the *guajira*, there is a certain sort of parental as well as filial relationship between the two.

In the subsequent few decades, the *colombiana* enjoyed considerable popularity, which, like the appeal of Marchena's music in general, was based on the general public rather than serious flamenco listeners, who have generally scorned *cante bonito*. By the 1970s, the *colombiana*, together with the *guajira*, was definitively out of favor. However, it is during this decade that a somewhat similar genre, or set of genres, called "rumba," came to attain even greater mass appeal than the *colombiana*. The term "rumba" has historically been used with great flexibility. Originally denoting a traditional Afro-Cuban voice-and-percussion dance-music genre, in early-twentieth-century Cuban comic theater (*teatro bufó*) the rumba denoted a stylized stage song often more similar to the contemporary *son*. In the United States in the 1930s and 1940s, diluted versions of the *son* were marketed under the name "rumba" (or rhumba), while in Spain, the term came to designate light, duple-metered flamenco-style songs, also more akin to *son* than to traditional rumba. In 1974, innovative flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucía enjoyed a smash hit with a bouncy instrumental jam in 4/4 entitled "Entre dos Aguas," also labeled a "rumba." In the same period, a Catalan-based pop-song style called "rumba," with a somewhat similar rhythm, came to enjoy national appeal.<sup>25</sup> The next decades, including the

present, have seen a tremendous vogue of pop "nuevo flamenco," whose core genre is "rumba," a term which now designates any light, pop flamenco song in 4/4, with accented upbeat (2 and 4).

The pop flamenco rumba neither evokes Cuba nor bears any particular stylistic relation with Cuban music, and should only in the most indirect sense be categorized as an *ida y vuelta* genre. However, although Spanish "flamencologists" do not describe it as a derivative of the *colombiana*, the rumba can certainly be seen as a successor, occupying the same status as a light, pop flamenco substyle in 4/4, which enjoys mass appeal. Insofar as one can in this sense posit a certain line of continuity from *guajira*, through *colombiana* to rumba, the transition from ternary to binary meter is perhaps the most conspicuous change. The parallels with Cuba are equally manifest: In both cases one can outline a line of development—with various external influences—from Cuban *música guajira* eventually leading to a more Afro-Cuban-flavored mainstream pop song-form in quadratic meter.

### Some Concluding Perspectives

An essay on the *guajira* complex which aspired to true elegance might endeavor to conclude with a single over-arching theme. Perhaps, however, such an unwieldy musical family as the *guajira*, spanning disparate centuries, continents, and social strata, may not lend itself to any such coherent analysis. Given such considerations, in lieu of a proper conclusion, I present here a set of considerations which, although emerging from the data, may have broader implications for the study of Spanish and Cuban music, Hispanic-American cultural exchanges, and the general dynamics of musical travel, transformation, and rearticulation.

One theme that emerges from the study of the *guajira* complex is the sheer difficulty of reconstructing—and hence, drawing conclusions from—the evolution of vernacular musical forms prior to the twentieth century. The process is further confounded by the often arbitrary and misleading way that names and terms come to be used—for instance, the early flamenco "rumba" which is in fact an adaptation of the *son*; the *colombiana* which has nothing to do with Colombia; and entities like a recent Spanish pop salsa-style song, confusingly labeled "punto cubano" (presumably because it contains quatrains by José Martí).<sup>26</sup>

The complex dynamics of musical flows and exchanges constitute at once a further impediment to easy analysis and a significant developmental feature in themselves. The *guajira* complex contains a particularly intricate and contradictory set of persistent marginal survivals, on the one hand, and ephemeral and spontaneous changes and fads, on the other. Thus, the peninsular-derived Mixolydian modality eclipsed centuries ago in Spain, but survives in the Cuban *punto* and even in the modern *guajira-son*. Con-

versely, the flamenco *guajira* may contain features derived from Cuban-derived melodic models, such as the eighteenth-century "Punto de La Habana," which are no longer found in Cuba. Similarly, the hemiola phrasing basic to Anckermann's urban *guajira*, although perhaps ultimately of Latin American (Mexican?) origin, may have derived more directly from the Spanish *zarzuela* and flamenco *guajira*. Such continuities notwithstanding, one must also note the senses in which certain developments, including entire genres, derive not from collective, folk-style gestations, but from the innovations of particular individuals, such as Anckermann and Pepe Marchena.

As the *guajira* family shows, the musical exchanges between Cuba and Spain seem to constitute neither a regular and constant circular flow, nor an easily discernible sequence of one-way transmissions. Rather, the historical record seems to suggest an irregular and often overlapping series of ebbs and flows, whether circular or unidirectional, with eddies and backwaters, involving particular movements at particular times. These would include, for example, the early migrations of Canary Islanders to Cuba in the 1690s<sup>27</sup>; the subsequent migratory flow from the Canaries (especially La Palma) in the nineteenth century, and its reversal in the mid-1900s; the presence of Spanish soldiers in Cuba during its wars of independence; and—of particular importance—the travels of Spanish *zarzuela* and *tonadilla* troupes back and forth between Cuba and Spain in the latter nineteenth century.

A related, and striking aspect of the interactions between Cuba and Spain is the particular combination of, on the one hand, resilient and distinctive local traditions and developments, and on the other, transcontinental exchanges. In both Spain and Cuba, local traditions had particular sorts of tenacity and importance. As Romualdo Molina told me, "Even in my youth, in one barrio of Seville, people had a particular accent, a way of telling jokes, of dancing, and of singing fandango, while in another barrio, five hundred meters away, everything would be different" (personal interview). Distinctions between musical traditions of different towns and regions were (and in many respects remain) even more marked, especially since until the late 1800s Spanish roads were primitive and infested with robbers. Inland travel in contemporary Cuba was no better; at a time when as many as two thousand ships might visit Havana yearly, overland conveyances between there and not-so-distant Cienfuegos occurred only once weekly (Thomas 1971, 136, 149). Musical traditions—such as local varieties of *punto*—were correspondingly diverse. Thus, while sea travel was not without its vicissitudes, in many respects the Andalusian ports of Seville and Cádiz were closer linked to Havana than to Madrid, while Havana itself was in some ways nearer to those peninsular sister cities than to inland Cuban towns like Camagüey.<sup>28</sup>

Such conditions fostered idiosyncratic forms of transnational and local interactions. In many respects, the *guajira* complex evolved as a transcontinental

entity, easily straddling the Atlantic *charca* or pond, which was traversed by *zarzuela* troupes, immigrants, soldiers, touring musicians, and eventually, phonograph records. In other respects, the complex developed particular local features. Hence, for example, the extent to which one could speak of a distinctive Córdoba style of singing flamenco *guajira* (Molina and Espín 1992, 53), and the way that the tradition of improvising spoken *décimas*, after a long hiatus in the peninsula, seems to have curiously taken root, under Cuban influence, in the Alpujarra hills of Spain (Checa 1994, 309).

The circulation involved not only the transmission of stylistic and structural features but also their affective resignification. Most obvious in this category was the way that the *guajira* in Spain could either function simply as an abstract musical genre, or as one somehow redolent of gypsies (hence, the "guajiras gitanas"), or, most often, as a style evocative of an idyllic and sensual Cuba (like the choral *habaneras* still sung in various parts of Spain). In a series of exoticizations, Spain served as the "Orient" of Europe, Andalusia as the Orient of greater Spain, and Cuba as the Orient of Andalusia. Even in Cuba itself, the urban *guajira*—whether of Anckermann or Portabales—functioned similarly, exoticizing and romanticizing *campesino* life for the entertainment of urban audiences.

Among the many formal developments and transformations involved in the trajectories of the *guajira* complex, one broad trend, mentioned above in passing, merits further comment. Both in Spain and Cuba, *guajira*-related musics can be seen to exhibit a binarization process by which ternary-metered traditional folk forms transform into duple-metered ones when they develop into mainstream commercial popular music genres. Thus, the 3/4-6/8 flamenco *guajira*, after enjoying several decades of vitality, gives way to the 4/4 *colombiana* and the pop rumba, and Anckermann's similarly ternary *guajira* is eclipsed by the quadratic *guajira-son*. Such processes extend to Spanish and Cuban popular musics as a whole. Despite the legendary Spanish fondness for triple meter, and the popularity of the 12/8 *cantes* like *bulerías* and *soleares* in flamenco proper, the dominant popular music genres in Spain are overwhelmingly duple-metered, whether the pop flamenco rumba and tango, the pop ballad, or *rock en español*. Similarly, Cuban traditional genres in ternary meter, from the *zapateo* to the *punto*, have either remained marginal or died out altogether, drowned out in the popular music sphere by duple-metered *son*, salsa, rumba, mambo, *danzón*, and rap. The same process, indeed, can be seen in the Americas as a whole, wherein triple-metered or 6/8 traditional forms, such as the *vals*, *cueca*, *huapango*, and *bambuco*, while perhaps surviving in folkloric capacities, give way to duple-metered mainstream commercial genres like samba, tango, *porro*, *cumbia*, *ranchera*, and rock. Cuban musicologist Pérez Fernández (1986) made an ambitious, if problematic, attempt to survey aspects of this process, which clearly involves a certain sort of Afro-Latin influence. However, this rather fundamental and vast musical development warrants further attention.

The trajectory of the *guajira* complex can, in a related sense, be seen to reflect a certain triumph of Afro-Latin musical forms over what must be regarded as a musically weak Cuban *campesino* tradition. Alejo Carpentier incisively commented on the rather limited musical raw materials that *guajira* music offered to the serious composer, writing, "Those who claimed to utilize *guajira* music in larger-scale works were surprised that after a first score nothing else was left to be done" ([1946] 2001, 266). Nevertheless, of course, the *punto* did inspire, however indirectly, a flamenco *cante* that flourished for some seven decades, and at least one form of Cuban urban music. Yet ultimately these genres proved ephemeral or marginal, swept aside by the tide of sensuous Afro-Latin rhythms dominating the commercial music scene. Ironically, while various forms of urban *guajira* flowered and then declined, in his marginal but stable cultural niche, the Cuban *guajiro* has gone on singing the *punto*, whether in state-run competitions, on the radio, in Miami clubs, or under the proverbial palm tree.

## Notes

1. A clarification may be useful: While *punto* is the main genre in the category of *música guajira* or *guajiro* music (a category which would also include, for example, the *zapateo*), the term "guajira," as the name of a musical genre, does not denote *punto*. Rather, "guajira" (aside from meaning "Cuban peasant woman") would, depending on context, designate one of three distinct genres: the flamenco *guajira*, the Cuban early-twentieth-century theater *guajira*, or the subsequent urban Cuban *guajira-son*.
2. A similar tonal ambiguity obtains in the minority of *puntos*—called *punto carvajal* or *punto español*—that oscillate between major and minor chords, as in the configuration Am-E major.
3. León 1979, 23. The singing, by two voices, in parallel thirds is a typical feature of this *punto spirituario* style.
4. See, e.g., the song presented by Francisco Salinas in his *De Música Libri Septem* (1577), extracted in Pérez Fernández 1986, 70.
5. E.g., García Matos and Hipólito Rossy (in Molina and Espín 1991, 25, 47) claim a peninsular origin for the hemiola, while Molina and Espín themselves seem to suggest the opposite (1991, 47).
6. The authenticity of this melody is dismissed by García Matos (1972, 38), but it remains of interest, especially in relation to ex. 11.
7. See Molina and Espín 1991, 45.
8. Pasmanick (1997, 254), citing Vicente Mendoza, mentions the poetry of the romantics Gaspar Núñez de Arce (1834–1903), José Zorrilla y Moral (1817–1893), and the later "generation of 1927," including Jorge Guillén (1893–1984) and Federico García Lorca (1898–1936).

9. "A mí me gusta por la mañana," from Manuel Escacena, *Un maestro del cante* (Sonifolk 20103). The guitar fingering is that of E7-A, using a capo on the third fret. During this period, A7-D patterns were also used.
10. See, e.g., III:6 (the familiar "Al amanecer el día") on *Los cantes hispanoamericanos en el mundo del flamenco: Ida y vuelta* (Pasarela CDP8/858).
11. From the tonadilla "Los novios y la maja," by Pablo Esteva y Grimen. A very similar zarandillo is excerpted and discussed in Grenet 1939, xvi. For further discussion of the *paño moruno* melody, see Galán (1983, 39–41).
12. Cf. Marchena's remark: "The *guajira*, which is a *cante* brought from Cuba and flamenco-ized, has declined there and here has taken root in such a way that it's become our own." Interview with Marchena, in *ABC* (newspaper, Andalucía), 12/12/72, reprinted in booklet accompanying *Los cantes hispanoamericanos en el mundo del flamenco: Ida y vuelta* (Pasarela CDP8/858). All translations from the Spanish are by the author.
13. The hemiola figure is also basic to both Mexican *son huasteco* "La Petenera" and early flamenco versions of the *cante* "Peteneras," which are also remarkably similar in their chords and melodies. The origin of this song/*cante* remains unclear. See Molina and Espín 1991, chap. 4.
14. A less charitable view is offered by Rafael Marín in his flamenco guitar manual of 1902, in which he writes of the *guajira*, "This *cante* is Cuban, except that it is adorned differently here, but often in such poor taste that Cubans would scarcely recognize it" ([1902] 1995, 70).
15. Such considerations have generated some misleading accounts of the *guajira*'s origin. For example, composer Joaquín Turina wrote in 1928, "The indigenous [Cuban] whites, that is, the *campesinos*, sang and still sing a series of songs they call 'punto cubano,' which is nothing but our own Andalusian *guajira* . . . Ernesto Lecuona has verified that the so-called *punto cubano* is of Spanish origin and derives from the Andalusian *guajira*, brought to Cuba by the first colonizers" (Turina 1982, 32–33). Whatever original Andalusian source existed for the Cuban *punto* would certainly not have been designated by the Cuban term "guajira."
16. In this vein is the *décima* "Al amanecer el día," recorded several times around the turn of the century.
17. The naivete of such verses was not lost on Spaniards, inspiring parodies such as one recorded in 1933: "I married you, creole woman/but not your mother; /tell her to go in exile to Spain/tell her she can visit tomorrow/but not while I'm home/and if she comes while I'm still here/I'll throw her out the window/and if she's lucky she'll land on her feet" (on *Los cantes hispanoamericanos en el mundo del flamenco: Ida y vuelta* (Pasarela CDP8/858), III:4) (Yo contigo me casé indiana/pero no con tu mamá/díle que se vaya/a la España desterra'/Díle que venga

- mañana/pero cuando yo no esté/que si entra aquí una ve'/de casa no sale ya/la tiro por la ventana/y a lo mejor cae de pie.)
18. On *La Niña de la Puebla* (DIENC CD 116, 6).
19. The *zapateo* was a popular rural instrumental dance-music form, with standardized melodic figures in fast 6/8, typically played on *tres* or other stringed instruments.
20. Also worthy of mention are the *guajira*-inspired pieces by composer Amadeo Roldán, such as his "Guajira vueltabajera" of 1928 for cello and piano, which exploits, in a sort of Debussy/Golliwog modernist manner, some of the genre's distinctive features. In another essay (Manuel 2002), I discuss Roldán's adaptation of Mixolydian tonality; also noteworthy is how the cello and piano playfully toss back and forth fragments in 6/8 and 3/4 tempi.
21. Galán (1983, 51) notes how the theater *guajira* can be seen as the progenitor of the early twentieth-century *clave* and *criolla* song-forms, but these enjoyed relatively ephemeral popularity.
22. See, e.g., Benny Moré's big-band "Soy campesino" on *Sonero Mayor* (EGREM LD-3974).
23. On *Lilia Vera y Pablo Milanés* (EGREM LD-3988). I have transposed this excerpt from the original E major to C major to facilitate comparison with example 4.
24. Note the somewhat interchangeable use of plural and singular forms of flamenco *cante* names; hence, one may sing "una colombiana," or, more often, "por colombianas," lit., "in colombianas."
25. For further discussion of the Spanish pop rumba see Manuel 1988, 121–26.
26. Vicente Soto, "Tengo flores para tí," on *Entre dos mundos* (Fonomusic CD-8127).
27. The Cuban city of Matanzas is said to have been founded by Canary immigrants in 1693 (Thomas 1971, 97).
28. This combination of local insularity and transcontinental travel was particularly marked in the Canaries. López Viera (2003, 39) describes how until recent decades, many peasants in the island of Gomera never traveled more than a few miles from their isolated native villages in the hills, except, in many cases, to travel to Cuba for several years to work.

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